#1

The NEW SPIDER-MAN® vs.

VENOM®

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SPIDER-MAN GROUP

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ALONG CAME A SPIDER...

DEEP UNDER THE STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY...

HA! WE'VE BEEN DOWN IN THE *REALLY* DEEP REACHES OF THE EARTH FOR SO LONG, THESE *SEWER TUNNELS* SEEM ABSOLUTELY *VERTIGINOUS!*

BUT IT WAS NECESSARY TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE AFTER COMING BACK FROM THE *SYMBIOTE PLANET!*

AVENGER

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WE CAN SAVE THE WORLD ALL RIGHT...

...SO HOW COME OUR *PERSONAL* LIFE IS SUCH A *MESS?*

KEE OU

AH, *HOME*--

--AS IT WERE!

GOOD *LORD!* WE FORGOT ALL ABOUT *ANN!**

WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT IF SHE IS ALL RIGHT AFTER ALL THOSE RAMPAGING SYMBIOTES TRASHED HALF THE CITY!**

GOOD THING WE TAPPED INTO THIS SUBWAY PHONE LINE--

BOOP BEEP BIP BOOP BEEP BIP BOOP

COME *ON, ANN--* *ANSWER!*

*ANN WEYING IS EDDIE BROCK'S EX-WIFE! --TOM

**SEE "PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES" IN THE 1995 SPIDER-MAN SUPER SPECIALS.--TOM

RRRRRRING

COME ON!

RRRING

IN ANN WEYING'S BOARDED UP MIDTOWN APARTMENT, A RELAY TRIPS SILENTLY AND THE CALL IS TRANSFERRED--

--TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

PICK IT UP, ANN...

...WE HAVE A PHONE TECH STANDING BY TO RUN A TRACE. THIS IS OUR BEST BET TO TRACK DOWN YOUR EX, AKA VENOM, AND BRING HIM IN!

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY!

I'M NOT OBLIGATED TO HELP YOU CAPTURE EDDIE!

HE MAY BE A BIT CONFUSED BUT HE MEANS WELL!

YOU TALK TO HER, CLARK!

CAN DO, STEEN.

VENOM IS A DANGEROUS VIGILANTE!

THERE ARE A STACK OF WARRANTS OUT ON HIM HERE AND IN SAN FRANCISCO AND CHICAGO!

LADY, YOU ARE AIDING AND ABETTING AND THAT IS A CLASS A FELONY--

--ARE YOU GOING TO THROW AWAY YOUR WHOLE FUTURE AS A LAWYER?

WHAT IF SHE WON'T EVEN *TALK* TO ME?

SHE WAS SO *UPSET* ABOUT WHAT SHE DID WHEN YOU AND SHE WERE *MELDED** AND--

* IN VENOM: SINNER TAKES ALL.--TOM

WHAT?

SHE'LL WANT US BACK BECAUSE SHE'S HAD A *TASTE*?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHAT DOES THAT *MEAN*?

RING!

HELLO?

ANN! IT'S US-- I MEAN, IT'S ME, EDDIE!

CALM DOWN EDWARD. EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT!

EDWARD? SHE KNOWS I HATE BEING CALLED THAT! WHY WOULD SHE--?

IS SHE NOT ALONE? HOW CAN WE FIND OUT?

SHE NEEDS TO KEEP HIM ON THE LINE FOR AT LEAST TWO MORE MINUTES! THERE'S SOME SORT OF SHUNT ON THE LINE!

NO OTHER CHOICE--

MY OTHER WILL HAVE TO REDUCE ITSELF TO A MOLECULAR MONOFILAMENT AND TRAVEL THROUGH THE PHONE LINES TO MELD WITH HER!

A LOT OF *STATIC* ON THE LINE--!

--LIKE THE *IMPEDENCE* ON THE LINE JUST *JUMPED!*

OMIGOD!

I GOT THE *TRACE*, BUT IT'S READING OUT AS THE *SWITCHING TERMINAL* FOR THE *SUBWAY SYSTEM!!*

THE *SYMBIOTE!!*

IT'S *MELDING* ONTO *ANN WEYING!!*

CLARK! GET ON THE INTERCOM TO THE FRONT DESK! SEAL AND CORDON OFF THE WHOLE HQ BUILDING! TELL THEM WE HAVE A *SITUATION* IN THE INTERROGATION ROOM!

THE MELDING IS MORE THAN EDDIE BROCK EXPECTED.

THIS IS MORE THAN THE MERE SYMBIOSIS OF TWO DISPARATE LIFE FORMS...

WHAT'S GOING DOWN HERE??

SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S IN-- ECSTASY!

...THIS IS THE MIND-MELDING OF TWO HUMAN BEINGS THROUGH THE CHANNELING MEDIUM OF AN ALIEN SYMBIOTE!

ALL THE DEEPEST THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS OF TWO SEPARATE BEINGS FLOW TOGETHER...

...AND THEY EXPERIENCE A COMMUNION FAR BEYOND THE TAWDRY PHYSICAL!

The Daily Grind

MEANWHILE, IN A DOWNTOWN COFFEE SHOP...

HERE'S YOUR BURGER AND FRIES, BEN...

WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS? THE *BUGLE* IS *STILL* MILKING THAT *SYMBIOTE INVASION!*

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THESE DIFFERENT SPIDER-PEOPLE!

I WAS ABDUCT BY A SYMBI

WELL, FIRST, WE HAD THE REGULAR PLAIN-VANILLA SPIDER-MAN--

ARE WE NOT INCLUDING THE GUY IN THE BLACK COSTUME FROM A WHILE BACK?

THEN WE HAD THE *SCARLET SPIDER,* AND NOW--

--WE HAVE THIS *NEW GUY* IN A COMPLETELY *DIFFERENT* COSTUME, BUT WHO SEEMS TO BE CARRYING ON SPIDER-BUSINESS AS USUAL!

DAILY BUGLE

SO ARE THERE THREE OF THEM, OR WHAT?

YOU MEAN *FOUR,* RIGHT?

SHE'S NOT COUNTING THE BLACK COSTUME!

THEY THINK *THEY'RE* CONFUSED...

ALL THOSE YEARS, I THOUGHT I WAS A *CLONE,* AND THEN I FIND OUT I'M THE *REAL* ORIGINAL *PETER PARKER.*

BUT MY CLONE IS MARRIED TO *MARY JANE* AND HE'S TAKEN MY NAME--

TVs

--SO NOW, I CONTINUE TO BE *BEN REILLY* AND TAKE UP THE JOB OF BEING *SPIDER-MAN* AGAIN!

SHEESH! AND SOME PEOPLE THINK THEY HAVE *IDENTITY PROBLEMS!*

--THERE IS NOW A CORDON AROUND POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND *SWAT SNIPERS* HAVE BEEN SPOTTED ON THE ROOF!

HUH? THAT'S *TRISH TILBY*--

WHAT IS GOING ON INSIDE TO WARRANT ALL THIS? POLICE SPOKESPERSONS AREN'T SAYING!

BUT ISN'T THIS WHERE THEY HAVE TAKEN *ANN WEYING* INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY?

ISN'T SHE *VENOM'S* EX-WIFE??

VENOM!

I'VE BEEN *WONDERING* WHAT BECAME OF HIM SINCE THE WHOLE *SYMBIOTE* FIASCO!

NOW'S MY CHANCE TO BRING THAT PSYCHO DOWN ONCE AND FOR ALL--

--THE WAY MY PREDECESSOR NEVER COULD!

ANN! I HAVE TO BREAK OFF THIS CONNECTION! THIS IS TOO INTENSE!!

NO! DON'T!! PLEASE--

I HAVE TO ANN--

--WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET YOU OUT OF THERE!

THAT WAS STAGGERING.

IT WAS LIKE WE BECAME A SINGLE ENTITY!

THE OTHER AND I ARE TOO DIFFERENT TO MELD LIKE THIS, BUT THIS--

--NOW I KNOW EVERYTHING SHE EVER KNEW!

BUT THAT MEANS...

...SHE KNOWS AS MUCH ABOUT ME!!!

THAT TRACE WAS NO GOOD!

THE PHONE IS TAPPED INTO THE LINE BETWEEN STATIONS!

WHERE'S THE SITUATION?

HOW ARE YOU FEELING, MS. WEYING?

UNDER CONTROL...

...FOR THE TIME BEING!

NEVER BETTER...

ARRGH!

GOTTA SAVE HER!!!

THOSE FASCIST PIG COPS ARE GOING TO PAY!!

WE'LL EAT THEIR BRAINS-- WE'LL--

--WE'LL HAVE TO USE OUR *OWN BRAINS* IF WE WANT TO GET INSIDE THEIR LITTLE *POLICE FORTRESS!*

ANOTHER *PHONE CALL* IS IN ORDER!!

THEY CERTAINLY BEEFED UP SECURITY HERE!

HOW DOES *VENOM* EXPECT TO GET PAST ALL *THIS?*

GUESS I SHOULD TROLL THE AREA WITH MY *SPIDER SENSE* AND SEE IF I CAN PICK UP HIS *TRAIL!*

POLICE

OH, THIS IS JUST GREAT! VENOM CAN TRAVEL THROUGH THE PHONE LINES!

I DON'T THINK SO--I READ THE REPORT FROM THE PARVENU TOWERS INCIDENT*.

I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT ALL HE CAN SEND THROUGH THE WIRES IS THE OTHER, THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE!

*IN VENOM: CARNAGE UNLEASHED.--TOM

BUT NOW IT APPARENTLY HAS SOME SORT OF RELATIONSHIP WITH ANN WEYING!

WE HAVE TO GET HER DOWN WHERE WE CAN CUT OFF THE PHONE LINES AND PUT UP A SECURE PERIMETER--

--SOMEPLACE LIKE THE BASEMENT TARGET RANGE!

CEASE FIRE ON THE LINE! THE RANGE IS NOW CLOSED!

WE'RE COMMANDEERING THE RANGE OFFICE!

LAND LINES DISCONNECTED!

I WANT ALL THE SWAT TEAMS OUT IN FULL RIOT GEAR!

STEEN, YOU HAD BEST BARRICADE YOURSELVES IN HERE! I'M GOING UP TO PERSONALLY SUPERVISE SECURITY AT THE DOOR!

OH, EDDIE...

...I NEVER KNEW JUST HOW YOU FELT!

ACROSS THE STREET...

YOW! DUMB MOVE, BEN REILLY!

VENOM WOULDN'T GO IN THE FRONT DOOR--!

HE'D FIND SOME SNEAKY ACCESS THROUGH THE ROOF OR THE BASEMENT!

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO BETTER AT EXTRAPOLATING IF I'M GOING TO BE THE ONE AND ONLY SPIDER-GUY FROM NOW ON!

NOW, IF I WERE VENOM AND I WANTED TO GET INTO POLICE HEADQUARTERS, I'D CREEP RIGHT UP UNDER THE PLACE...

YECH!

QUITE FETID DOWN HERE TO SAY THE LEAST!

THROUGH THE SEWER SYSTEM!

NO SIGN OF OLD SLOBBER-FANGS YET, BUT ODDS ARE GOOD HE'LL BE SLOSHING THROUGH HERE RIGHT SOON!

VRROOOM!

HUH? WHAZZAT???

POLICE

POLIC

POLIC

GANGWAY! HOT 'ZA COMING THROUGH!

FREEZE, MOPE!

DROP DOWN AND ASSUME THE POSITION, SCUZZ-WAD!

IT'S A DOMINGO'S PIZZA DELIVERY!

LET ME HANDLE THIS--

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, BUDDY?

THE CHIEF ORDERED THESE PEPPERONI EXTRA CHEESES FOR STEEN, CLARK AND WEYING!

HEY, GET OUTTA MY FACE, DUDE-- I GET DOCKED IF THE 'ZA IS LIKE TARDY!

OH YEAH? VENOM CAN ASSUME THE APPEARANCE OF ANYBODY--

OFFICER, HAND ME YOUR BULLHORN!

YESSIR!

VENOM IS SENSITIVE TO--

--DISSONANT SOUND!!!

LET THIS GUY THROUGH.

WOOF!

SEND HIM DOWN TO THE RANGE!

YOU GUYS CHECK EVERYBODY WITH A BULLHORN LIKE I DID, WHILE I GO CHECK OUT THE ALLEY ONE MORE TIME!!

STAY ALERT, AND DON'T LET ANYBODY THROUGH WITHOUT A HIGH-DECIBEL GOING OVER!!

IN THE SEWERS...

NADA! WHERE COULD--?

WHOA?

WHAT'S THAT?

SOMETHING NOT RIGHT UP AHEAD--

IF MY SENSE OF DIRECTION ISN'T ALL WACKO, THIS MUST BE UNDER THE ALLEY NEXT TO POLICE HQ!

DEAD ALBINO ALLIGATORS!

THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'VE BEEN RIPPED APART BY FOOT-LONG FANGS!

SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING--

--UP THE LADDER!

NO ONE HERE-- HUH?

HEY, WHERE DID THAT PIZZA GUY GO?

WHATSAMATTER CLARK-- YOU LOSIN' IT?

YOU SENT THAT GUY DOWN TO THE RANGE WHERE STEEN IS WITH THE WEYING BROAD!

THAT'S RIGHT!

COME ON DOWN AT YOUR BREAK. I'LL SAVE YOU SOME SLICES!

I'LL PASS.

DITTO.

IN THE BASEMENT...

WHOA! LIGHTEN UP!

THE CHIEF ORDERED THESE PIES FOR YOU!

MOLLOY! CHECK WITH THE CHIEF!

I'M ON IT, STEEN!

SO WHO'S GONNA COUGH UP THE $37.50, HUH?

I GET A TIP, TOO!

YOU'LL GET A--

THE CHIEF DIDN'T ORDER NO PIZZA!

OKAY! FORGET THE TIP!

DON'T PULL DOWN ON THE LITTLE TWERP-- HE'S NOT VENOM!

HOW DO YOU KNOW, CLARK?

BECAUSE I'M VENOM!

IN THE ALLEY...

HEY! LEMME OUTTA HERE!

SOMEBODY IN THE DUMPSTER!

WHO--?

SPIDER-MAN--!

I'M DETECTIVE CLARK, NYPD! VENOM JUMPED ME AND DUMPED ME IN HERE--

HE'S PROBABLY WALKING RIGHT INSIDE POLICE HEADQUARTERS LOOKING JUST LIKE YOU!

YOU'VE TANGLED WITH THIS PSYCHO BEFORE, SPIDER-MAN--

--WE COULD SURE USE YOUR EXPERTISE!

GLAD TO HELP, DETECTIVE!

LET'S GO!

IN THE BASEMENT...

HE'S GOT THE WEYING WOMAN!

STOP HIM!

SO THE VERMIN WHO PREY ON THE INNOCENT ARE WEARING POLICE UNIFORMS NOW--

--WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS!!

THWIPP!

ANN WEYING NEVER DID A MEAN THING IN HER LIFE!

ZZZZAPP

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE *LIGHTS?*

HE SHORTED OUT THE *FUSE BOX!* WHAT HAPPENED TO THE *EMERGENCY LIGHTS!*

YOU EXPECTED THEM TO *WORK?*

PSSST!

TAP TAP

HE'S *BEHIND* ME--!

I'LL GET HIM!! I'LL--

BOOM!

DON'T SHOOT IN THE *DARK!* YOU'LL HIT *ANN WEYING!* LET ME GET SOME *LIGHT* ON THE SITUATION!

SO, WHERE IS HE?

THWAKK!

AIIEEEE!

MUELLER! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

BONK!

UHHHHH...

I JUST SAW SOMETHING JUMP *UP...*

...HE'S INSIDE THE VENTILATION SYSTEM!

HE COULD BE ANYWHERE IN THE BUILDING!

AND HE TOOK ANN WEYING WITH HIM! WE HAVE TO--

GIVE IT UP! YOU'LL NEVER CATCH HIM NOW!

CLARK! OR IS IT?

VENOM COULD BE PLAYING A DOUBLE-THINK PLOY ON US--

--DOUBLING BACK AND ASSUMING THE APPEARANCE OF CLARK AGAIN BECAUSE WE WOULDN'T THINK HE'D TRY IT TWICE!

I'M THE REAL CLARK! JUST ASK SPIDER-MAN, RIGHT BEHIND ME--

WHERE? THERE'S NOBODY BEHIND YOU, CLARK--

--OR WHOEVER YOU ARE!

ON THE ROOF...

YOU'RE SAFE, NOW, ANN!

WE'LL GET YOU FAR AWAY, AND--

SCHRRIPP

HOLD ON! TIME OUT!!

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE WITH YOU!

BUT--

LOOK--I WASN'T ABOUT TO HELP THEM TRAP YOU, BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO RUN OFF WITH YOU EITHER!

EVEN AFTER-- AFTER--

I FOUND OUT THINGS I NEVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU, EDDIE-- NOW I'M SO CONFUSED!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO ANYWHERE WITH THIS CREEP IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, LADY!

YOU?!

BUTT OUT, SPIDER-MAN!!

WE'VE HAD IT WITH YOU MESSING UP OUR LIVES...!

THIS TIME, WE'RE GOING TO SETTLE YOUR HASH FOR GOOD!

WOOF! DID I EVER BITE OFF MORE THAN I CAN CHEW!

TO BE CONTINUED.

WELL, HELLO, MR. AND MRS. ALIEN ...AND MR. AND MRS. SYMBIOTE.

WELCOME TO TOP SECRET TESTING FACILITY NUMBER TWELVE, BURIED DEEP IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK'S BREATHTAKING ADIRONDACKS.

GLAD TO SEE YOU GOT HERE OKAY... I KNOW THAT FIRST STEP DOWN IS A DOOZY.

MY NAME IS GUARDSMAN NUMBER SIX... BUT YOU CAN CALL ME SCOTT.

YOUR ROOM'S RIGHT THIS WAY.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO MAKE YOUR STAY HERE LESS COMFORTABLE.

HYBRID: PHASE ONE: FIRST TOUCH

EVAN SKOLNICK STORY
PATRICK ZIRCHER PENCILS
GREG ADAMS INKS
JIM NOVAK LETTERING
TOM SMITH COLORING
MALIBU COMPUTER
TOM BREVOORT COLOR
BOB BUDIANSKY EDITING
CHIEFING

OKAY, WASHINGTON, ENOUGH DAYDREAMING... STAY FROSTY.

THESE SYMBIOTES ARE THE SAME AS THE ONES THAT JOINED WITH HUMANS TO BECOME VENOM... AND CARNAGE.

DOESN'T MATTER HOW HELPLESS THEY'RE TRYING TO LOOK...

...DOESN'T MATTER THAT THE HUMAN HOSTS THESE PARTICULAR SYMBIOTES MERGED WITH WERE DECENT FOLKS...*

*SEE: VENOM: SEPARATION ANXIETY!

...JUST REMEMBER-- THEY'RE ALIEN. THEY'RE DANGEROUS.

MAN. NEVER THOUGHT I'D MISS LIVING AND WORKING AT THE VAULT.

...BUT HAVING JUST GOT HERE, I CAN ALREADY TELL THAT THREE MONTHS LOCKED IN THIS UNDERGROUND PIT IS GONNA BE A LIVING HELL.

STILL, WHEN IT'S OVER I'LL FINALLY GET MY RAISE.

OKAY, EVERYONE STAND BY WHILE WE SECURE THE FINAL CONNECTIONS...

BREEDEEP BREEDEEP

HMPH. THIS DR. ZWERLING GUY LOOKS LIKE A PROUD FATHER SHOWING OFF HIS NEWBORN BABY.

MAYBE HIS NEW GIZMO WILL KEEP THE SYMBIOTES FROM ESCAPING AGAIN... NOTHING ELSE HAS.

WHICH IS PROBABLY WHY THEY RECRUITED THE FIVE BEST GUARDSMEN FROM THE VAULT TO OVERSEE THE TRANSPORT OF THESE UGLIES.

GOTTA ADMIT, I FEEL A LITTLE SAFER WITH THESE SONIC RIFLES THEY'VE OUTFITTED US WITH, AND THE TRIP FROM COLORADO WENT SMOOTH ENOUGH, BUT STILL--

I KNEW IT.

$#@%! THEY'VE BREACHED THE INNER SEAL!

IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN-- THEY'RE BREAKING FREE!

YOU LOW-ARMORS GET BACK!

EVERYONE CLEAR OUT-- WE'LL HANDLE THIS!

ON MY MARK, GUARDSMEN--

NO!

EXCUSE ME?

FOR GOD'S SAKE-- WEREN'T YOU BRIEFED ON THE NEW CONTAINMENT SYSTEM?

THIS IS ALL PART OF ITS NORMAL OPERATION!

DON'T SHOOT, YOU FOOLS!

THEN WHY THE ALARMS?

"THEY'RE NOT ALARMS, THEY'RE JUST STATUS INDICATORS.

"THESE NEW CONTAINERS ARE QUADRUPLE-REDUNDANT, WITH ELECTROSTATIC GENERATORS MORE THAN CAPABLE OF REPELLING ANY ESCAPE ATTEMPT...

BREAK

"...AND OF DRAWING THE SYMBIOTE BACK INTO THE INNER CHAMBER...LIKE SO!"

KLANNG

KLANNG

HOW NICE.

MAYBE WE'D BETTER HAVE A LITTLE SIT-DOWN AT SOME POINT TO GO OVER ALL THE NEW SYSTEMS, HUH?

GUESS THAT MEANS WE CAN RELAX A BIT AND SETTLE INTO OUR NEW HOME.

JAKE, YOU'RE ON FIRST WATCH HERE IN THE LAB. SEE YOU IN SIX HOURS.

GEE, THANKS.

2

AS SOON AS IT'S CONVENIENT, GUARDSMAN!

RIGHT NOW, I'M ALREADY SIX HOURS BEHIND SCHEDULE.

:SIGH:

7

DON'T MENTION IT. THE REST OF YOU, LET'S FIND OUT WHERE THE BAR IS.

FOLLOW ME, BOYS. YOUR LUGGAGE IS ALREADY IN YOUR ASSIGNED ROOMS...

...OR, AT LEAST, WHAT'S LEFT OF YOUR LUGGAGE AFTER WE "LOW-ARMORS" WENT THROUGH IT AND TOOK ALL THE GOOD STUFF.

LEAST THE LOCAL GUARDS'VE GOT A SENSE OF HUMOR.

SEEMS YOU'D HAVE TO DEVELOP ONE LIVING 24 HOURS A DAY UNDER-GROUND.

6

THAT OBVIOUSLY HASN'T OCCURRED TO ZWERLING OR HIS LAB-COAT LACKEYS, THOUGH. STUCK-UP STIFFS.

I'M GLAD THIS IS A TEMPORARY GIG.

ROOM'S NOT AS BAD AS I THOUGHT IT'D BE.

LEAST I'VE GOT MY OWN PC IN HERE. AFTER I UNPACK, I'LL SEE IF IT'S GOT ENOUGH RAM TO HANDLE MY "GUARDSMAN SPECS" PROGRAM.

BUT FIRST I'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT CALL TO MAKE...

...TO A VERY SPECIAL LADY.

YOUR CALL IS BEING PLACED. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL CONVERSATIONS ARE MONITORED. THANK YOU FOR USING TSTF.

HMM. SOUNDS LIKE THE FACILITY'S OPERATOR HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR, TOO.

BLEEP BLEEP

KLIK

HELLO?

MAMA-- COOL! I WAS HOPING I'D GET LUCKY AND CATCH YOU BETWEEN SHIFTS!

SCOTT! HOW ARE YOU, SON? HOW'S THE NEW ASSIGNMENT?

NOT SURE YET, MA... JUST GOT HERE.

IT ISN'T WHAT YOU'D CALL AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE LAST ONE... BUT IN THREE MONTHS, I'LL BE UP FOR MY RAISE, AND I'LL BE ABLE TO REALLY START SENDING YOU SOME CASH--

SORRY IT COULDN'T BE MORE, MAMA. THEY START YOU REAL LOW IN THIS JOB, BUT ONCE YOU GET THEIR FULL CONFIDENCE, THE MONEY SITUATION CAN REALLY IMPROVE.

SOON I'LL BE ABLE TO SEND YOU ENOUGH SO YOU CAN START THINKING OF MOVING OUT OF THAT STINKIN' GHETTO.

SCOTT, ALL I WANT IS FOR YOU TO BE HAPPY.

SWEETHEART, WE GOT THE LAST CHECK YOU SENT. YOU KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO--

AND ALL I WANT IS TO GET YOU AND DEREK OUT OF BEDFORD-STUYVESANT-- WHICH IS WHAT I'M GONNA DO.

HOW IS D, ANYWAY?

DON'T REALLY KNOW.

HE KEEPS TO HIMSELF A LOT THESE DAYS. MAYBE HE'D TELL YOU.

OKAY, PUT HIM ON.

HEY, MAN, WHA'S UP? HOW'S THE NEW JOB?

I'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH, LITTLE BRO.

WHERE YOU AT? CAN YOU TELL ME YET?

I CAN ONLY SAY THAT I'M CLOSER TO BROOKLYN THAN I WAS BEFORE.

STILL NOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU, THOUGH ...HOW YOU LIVIN'?

JUST HANGIN', MAN, YOU KNOW--

WHO YOU HANGIN' WITH, D?

IF I COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS AND SEE YOU WEARIN' COLORS, OR HEAR YOU BEEN RUNNIN' BOTTLES--

YO, CHILL!

AIN'T NO COLORS OR BOTTLES, MAN. JUST HANGIN' WITH DWIGHT AND $#*% LIKE THAT... I'M COOL.

I KNOW YOU ARE, D. JUST STAY AWAY FROM THOSE BANG-BABIES, ALL RIGHT?

REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT RESPECTING YOURSELF... ABOUT STAYING IN SCHOOL AND STAYING STRAIGHT UNTIL I CAN GET YOU AND MAMA OUTTA THERE--

WORKIN' ON IT, LITTLE BRO...

YEAH, RIGHT... BUT FIRST YOU BUYIN' ME THAT PORSCHE, DEAL?

ARREST

GOD, I HOPE HE'S ALL RIGHT. WISH I COULD BE THERE FOR HIM.

I WANT TO BE AN INSPIRATION TO DEREK, LIKE THIS GUY WAS TO ME.

VANCE ASTROVIK... SUPER HERO WHO CALLS HIMSELF JUSTICE.

HE DIDN'T GROW UP IN THE 'HOOD LIKE I DID, BUT HE STILL HAD IT TOUGH. HIS FATHER ABUSED HIM UNTIL VANCE FINALLY LASHED OUT WITH HIS TELEKINETIC POWERS...

...AND ENDED UP DOING HARD TIME IN THE VAULT FOR NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE.

I REMEMBER WHEN HIS NEW WARRIORS BUDDIES TRIED TO BREAK HIM OUT... HE TOLD THEM HE WAS STAYING PUT, DOING HIS TIME.*

BEST MAN I EVER HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO GUARD.

Keep your feet both on the ground Vance

I HEAR HE'S LEADING THE WARRIORS THESE DAYS -- WONDER HOW HE'S DOING.

I SHOULD LOOK HIM UP.

*SEE NEW WARRIORS #25 AND #26!

SUPPOSE I SHOULD CATCH SOME Z'S, BUT I'M STILL TOO WIRED.

LET'S SEE IF I CAN CALL UP THOSE ARMOR SPECS...

THREE WEEKS LATER...

EVERYTHING'S ALWAYS QUIET HERE.

HARD TO TELL WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

OH, BUT WE KNOW.

THE WORLD'S GONE CRAZY. ALIEN SYMBIOTES HAVE INVADED ...THEY'RE TAKING EVERYONE OVER.*

*SEE THE "PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES" STORYLINE IN THE 1995 SPIDER-MAN SUPER-SPECIALS!

SLITHERING ONTO PEOPLE AND TAKING THEM FOR JOYRIDES, LIKE FREAKY INTERGALACTIC CARJACKERS.

WE'RE SAFE DOWN HERE, BURIED DEEP IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE...

...SAFE FROM THE INVADING SYMBIOTES, ANYWAY.

ZWERLING'S ANOTHER MATTER.

COME ON, COME ON--!

GET THAT ANTI-GRAV FLATBED MOVING--WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO SCREW AROUND!

EVERYTHING'S READY!

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE PRESSURE THE FEDS ARE PUTTING ON ZWERLING TO FIND THE ALIENS' VULNERABILITIES, THEIR ACHILLES' HEEL...

...S#*%, WE ALL HAVE LOVED ONES OUT THERE WE'RE WORRIED ABOUT.

BUT I'VE NEVER LIKED A PANIC ATMOSPHERE. IT MAKES PEOPLE SLOPPY.

YOU HEARD THE MAN --HOOF IT!

LET'S GET DOWN TO IT, PEOPLE...

...THE WHOLE WORLD IS COUNTING ON US.

THAT'S WHEN YOU MAKE MISTAKES.

AND IN OUR LINE OF WORK, WE CAN'T AFFORD EVEN ONE.

USED TO WONDER HOW THOSE BRITISH GUARDS STOOD IN ONE SPOT ALL DAY WITHOUT MOVING.

GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA NOW, I THINK.

NOT TOO CRAZY ABOUT HAVING THOSE SYMBIOTES OUT IN THE OPEN LIKE THIS...

...ZWERLING CAN BRAG ALL HE WANTS ABOUT HIS "ELECTRO-MAGNETIC RESONANCE BEDS"...I STILL DON'T LIKE IT.

...SEEM TO SUSTAIN THEMSELVES PURELY ON EMOTIONAL NOURISHMENT FROM OTHERS.

THIS ONE SEEMS TO BE STARVING. INTRIGUING...

SCREEE

THAT SCREAM--!

THIS...THIS ISN'T RIGHT, IS IT?

I MEAN, I'M AS WORRIED ABOUT MY FAMILY AS ANY-ONE ELSE HERE IS...

SCREEAAAWW

...BUT THESE FOUR CREATURES HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG ...OTHER THAN EXISTING.

S'LIKE ME AND DEREK, GROWING UP IN THE 'HOOD... LIVING EVERY DAY IN FEAR OF OUR LIVES, JUST BECAUSE OF THE COLOR OF OUR SKIN, BECAUSE OF WHERE WE WERE BORN...

AND THAT'S WHEN THE SYMBIOTES JUMP RIGHT OFF THE DOC'S FANCY TABLE.

LATER, WHEN IT'S ALL OVER, WE'LL LEARN THAT SPIDER-MAN, VENOM AND THE SCARLET SPIDER JUST SET OFF SOME KIND OF PLANET-WIDE PSYCHIC SHRIEK, WIPING OUT ALL THE INVADING ALIENS...*

...BUT RIGHT NOW, WE'RE NOT WORRIED HOW IT HAPPENED...

...WE'RE WONDERING HOW WE'RE GOING TO SURVIVE IT!

MY GOD--!

THEY'VE BROKEN FREE!

*AGAIN, IN "PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES"!

GOTTA LOVE THOSE SCIENTIFIC POWERS OF OBSERVATION...

...NOW BACK OFF!

DON'T DESTROY THEM! DON'T EVEN HARM THEM!

WE WERE ON THE VERGE OF LEARNING--

GET BACK-- EVERYONE INTO THE AIRLOCK, NOW!

WE'LL COVER YOU!

GOOD LORD--LOOK AT THEM!

THEY'RE JOINING... MERGING...BECOMING SOME KIND OF--

"--HYBRID!"

IT JUST TRASHED THE CONTAINMENT SPHERES!

LAY DOWN A SUPPRESSING FIRE--KEEP IT OFF-BALANCE UNTIL EVERY-ONE'S IN THE AIRLOCK--

STOP! YOU'RE DAMAGING IT--

NO, WE'RE NOT...

...AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM!

FRIGGIN' SLOW DOOR --COME ON...

...COME ON!

VRRRRRRRRR

VRRRRRR

SCOTT-- LOOK OUT!

IT'S IN!

BLOW THE OUTER DOOR--LET US OUT!

SCOTT! CLOSE YOUR SEALS--

HURGK

TOO LATE...

"...IT'S PENETRATING HIS ARMOR!"

AAAAAAAA

INCREDIBLE...

DOOR'S OPEN-- MOVE! MOVE!

HIT HIM WITH THE SONICS BEFORE HE BECOMES THE NEXT CARNAGE!

FWEEE

FULL POWER, GUARDSMEN!

GET IT OFF HIM-- OFF!

SKRAAAAW

IT'S WORKING-- BUT THOSE IDIOTS OPENED THE OUTER DOOR! IT'S ESCAPING...

DWEEE

DWEEE

DWEEE

"...DOWN THE HALL!"

SHLURKK

$#*%-- IT'S GONE INTO THE AIR DUCTS!

SOMEONE GET ME A VENTILATION SCHEMATIC BEFORE IT GETS OUTSIDE!

SCOTT-- YOU OKAY, MAN?

HUNNH HUNHH

WE-- THEY-- DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG...

...DIDN'T DESERVE THIS PAIN... PAAAAIN...

WHAT?!

TERRY, GET BACK HERE--SCOTT'S POSSESSED OR BRAINWASHED OR SOMETHING!

N-NO...I'M... I'M OKAY.

LET'S GET BACK TO WORK.

NOT YOU, SCOTT --I'M RELIEVING YOU OF DUTY.

HEAD DOWN TO MEDLAB IMMEDIATELY SO THE DOC CAN CHECK YOU OVER.

BUT--

NO TIME TO ARGUE, GUARDSMAN. THAT'S AN ORDER.

NOW WHERE ARE THOSE SCHEMATICS--

GOT 'EM, SIR.

OKAY, LISTEN UP, EVERYONE. HERE'S HOW I WANT DEPLOYMENT--

I'M HALFWAY TO MEDLAB WHEN I REALIZE THAT TERRY WAS RIGHT.

THOSE FOUR SYMBIOTES MERGED WITH ME-- BODY AND SOUL-- FOR A FEW AGONIZING SECONDS.

AND THAT'S WHY I'M NOT OKAY.

BECAUSE NOW I KNOW THAT THEY'RE NOT EVIL... JUST SCARED.

NOW I KNOW THAT THESE FOUR ARE DIFFERENT THAN THE REST. THEY DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE, THEY JUST WANT TO ESCAPE... TO LIVE.

AND THOSE FREAKIN' SCIENTISTS STAND THERE WATCHING THEM STARVE, EXPERIMENTING ON THEM... IT AIN'T RIGHT!

I FEEL LIKE A NAZI GUARD. "JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS" WHILE INNOCENT BEINGS ARE SUBJECTED TO CRUEL, SICK, INHUMANE--

OH, $#*%.

"LET ME JUST RUN THE SEQUENCE ONE MORE TIME...

"...YOUR INTERNAL CAMERA MAKES IT CLEAR YOU HAD AN EASY SHOT AT THE ALIEN AT THIS POINT...

"...YET HERE WE SEE YOU LOWERING YOUR SONIC WEAPON WITHOUT FIRING IT, DON'T WE, MR. WASHINGTON?"

AT WHICH POINT THE HYBRID WAS ABLE TO DUCK INTO THE AUXILIARY VENTING SYSTEM AND MAKE GOOD ITS ESCAPE.

NOW, DIDN'T IT OCCUR TO YOU THAT YOUR GUARDSMAN ARMOR'S INTERNAL CAMERAS WOULD REVEAL THIS LACK OF ACTION ON YOUR PART?

TO BE HONEST, SIR, I WASN'T EXACTLY THINKING ABOUT MY ARMOR'S CAMERAS AT THAT PARTICULAR MOMENT.

AND YET IT'S STILL YOUR CONTENTION THAT YOU WERE NOT POSSESSED BY THE SYMBIOTE OR SYMBIOTES AT THAT POINT?

OBVIOUSLY. BUT IF YOU'D STOPPED THE ALIEN--OR EVEN JUST REPORTED ITS LOCATION TO THE OTHERS--WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PREVENT ITS ESCAPE LAST WEEK.

I'M AWARE OF THAT.

THE TESTS WE'VE CONDUCTED SEEM TO CONFIRM YOUR CLAIM, BUT WE'RE WILLING TO--

I'VE HAD ENOUGH TESTS, THANKS.

I WAS ACTING ON MY OWN RECOGNIZANCE. AND I LET THE HYBRID ESCAPE BECAUSE WHAT WAS BEING DONE TO IT WAS WRONG.

IN THAT CASE, MR. WASHINGTON, THIS MATTER IS CLOSED...

...AND YOU'RE FIRED.

FIRED
FIRED
FIRED

EXIT

BEDFORD-STUYVESANT. RIGHT BACK WHERE I STARTED.

SO MUCH FOR GETTING MAMA AND DEREK OUT OF HERE...I CAN'T EVEN KEEP MYSELF OUT OF THIS PIT.

I SAVED THE ALIEN HYBRID FROM ITS OWN PRIVATE HELL...

...NOW I'M BACK IN MINE.

THUMPA THUMPA THOOM

GUNS, DRUGS, POVERTY, DESPERATION...FEEL LIKE A TRAPPED RAT, JUST LIKE I USED TO. GOD HELP ME...

...I'M HOME.

UPSTATE...

starving

alone

together but

alone

need Other

kind one

scott

need scott

and scott

needs us...

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH!

Eddie's Clubhouse

TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR
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C/O MARVEL COMICS, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016

ALL LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME & ADDRESS, ALTHOUGH WE WILL GLADLY WITHHOLD THAT INFO UPON REQUEST.

Dear Clubhouse,

First off, let me extend a hearty (and livery and brainy and intestiny) welcome to Tom Brevoort and Glenn Greenberg.

Let me congratulate you on the success of your comic. One thing I would like to point out just to those people who think that Venom can't handle Carnage: I just read "Planet of the Symbiotes" part 2, where we find that little boy Carny has been put into a coma by Pops! By the way, I really wish people would stop sending letters just to talk about Carnage. It's getting on my nerves.

Jim Grisinger
1500 Rt. 50
Woodbine, NJ 08270

Hey, how do you think Mr. Brock feels about it, Jim? After all, it's *his* Clubhouse!

Dear Editor,

I think Venom is the best Marvel character there ever was and ever will be. I just finished reading "Planet of the Symbiotes," and I thought it was great. The art was amazing and the story was brilliant.

I have just one question: has there or will there ever be a story where Carnage and Venom go one-on-one without that pain in the neck wall-crawler getting in the way?

Keep up the good work, lads.

Daragh Moloughney
25 Benedict Place Pelham
New York, NY 10803

What!? You can't *possibly* mean that you missed CARNAGE UNLEASHED, Larry Hama's first Venom limited series, Daragh! It featured just what you wanted: a no-holds-barred slugfest between Mr. Brock and his symbiotic spawn, *without* Spider-Man!

Dear Venom,

I just finished reading SINNER TAKES ALL #1 and it was really good.

I was very surprised to see the Sin-Eater again! It was a really good move to bring him back.

The artwork by Greg Luzniak is fabulous! Keep on with the good stuff, Greg!

Kristof Vaqueriza
Fabiolalaam 23
3290 Diest
Belgium

Mr. Brock agrees that Greg Luzniak did a fine job illustrating him in SINNER TAKES ALL, as did Ted Halsted, who graciously stepped in to pencil the final chapter of that story. Mr. Brock is happy to report that he's convinced Ted to come back and illustrate an upcoming Venom story arc!

Dear Venom staff,

Venom is my favorite Marvel character. His books continue to improve all the time. It is long overdue for him to have his own monthly title. The Green Goblin has his own monthly title, just for coming back – it's not fair!

SINNER TAKES ALL is the best yet! Eddie is coming full circle, since it was his article on the original Sin-Eater that led to him becoming Venom.

The situation with his ex-wife is interesting. I was fascinated when she melded with the symbiote at the end of issue #2. I cannot wait to see what will happen next. "Planet of the Symbiotes" is a good series, too. I hope these new insights about the symbiote lead Venom to become a true hero. I wonder how Venom, Spider-Man and the Scarlet Spider will deal with a fifty-foot Carnage in the last part of "Planet"!

Ricky Crawford
303 E. Bullard Avenue
Apt. 129
Fresno, CA 93710

Venom is *already* a true hero, Ricky! At least, that's what he always tells *us!*

Dear Venom,

I am your biggest fan. I like your comics. You are the coolest super hero ever. Can you answer these questions for me:

1) What's your favorite movie?

2) What's your favorite food?

3) Are you going to team up with Spider-Man?

Derek Frader
2926 E. Laurel
Mesa, AZ 85213

Mr. Brock has generously provided the answers to your questions, Derek:

1) Favorite movie: "Eating Raoul"!

2) Favorite food: Raoul! Just kidding!

3) No, but as you can see from our lead story this month, he will be pounding on Spider-Man for the better part of four issues!

Dear V-Man,

VENOM: SINNER TAKES ALL is one of your best limited series. The new Sin-Eater looks much better than the original. It is really ironic that the Sin-Eater is back, since the article you wrote that was ruined by that Spider-punk and destroyed your career was about the original Sin-Eater. I also think that you should remarry Ann Weying.

George B. Moore
43 Alamanda Drive
Ormond Beach, FL 32176

Mr. Brock's relationship with Ann Weying will be put to the test throughout the course of ALONG CAME A SPIDER, George. We won't say whether there are wedding bells in their future, though – you'll have to read the rest of the story to find out!

NEXT ISSUE:

The war between Venom and Spider-Man escalates (as if *that* were possible)! And we're only *two issues* into this story! Be back for more mayhem, craziness and gonzo action from Larry Hama and Joe St. Pierre! Plus: more on Hybrid, by Evan Skolnick and Patrick Zircher!